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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2008/100.

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Statement

The Warsaw Declaration — World Family Summit+3

Working Out of Poverty: Mobilizing for Action by building trust, bridges, capability and partnership

The 140 delegations from Countries representing all Continents, composed by Governments at National, Regional and Local levels, NGOs, Parliamentarians, Academia, Judiciary Systems, Media, Business Community and Families, gathered at the World Family Summit +3, in Warsaw, Poland. After three days of interaction and deliberation, they decided to support and recommend to the Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and to all deliberative and executive instances at national and local levels of their respective countries the present declaration:

Recognizing that economic, social, and environmental development is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, peace, democracy, good governance and transparency, mutual responsibility and cooperation, ethical values, and respect for religious and cultural diversity;

Reaffirming that the Family is the fundamental entity of society, plays a key role in economic, social, environmental and Sustainable Development, and bares the responsibility for the transmission to present and future generations of the above mentioned values;

Maintaining awareness that empowering families, particularly women, to exercise their own capacities and full participation in policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation of decisions, determines the functioning and well-being of our societies and is fundamental for the process of Sustainable Development;

Recognizing the contributions of the United Nations World Conferences and Summits held in the 1990s and their follow-ups, the Millennium Summit, the Millennium Declaration, and the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing the historic moment for the Family held in 1994 with the Declaration of the United Nations International Year of the Family and the Celebration in 2004 of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

Reaffirming the contents of the Sanya Declaration, the Aracaju Practical Plan of Action 2006-2015, and the Dead Sea Declaration approved respectively at the World Family Summit in China, 2004, World Family Summit +1 held in Brazil, and World Family Summit +2 held in Jordan;

Unanimously conclude and recommend:

I. Family and Poverty

1. Economic, social, and environmental protections are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of Sustainable Development, which must be the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all Families.

2. Governments, institutions, enterprises, and countries are learning that dealing with the family as a whole, is a powerful tool in addressing economic, social, environmental, and Sustainable Development issues.

3. Eradication of poverty must be based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and social justice, and requires the involvement of the Family with equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of family-centered Sustainable Development.

4. In many parts of the World, Families are continuously excluded from national policies and programmes that target poverty eradication, which results in a lifetime transmission of the cycle of poverty. Our common goal for a stable and prosperous world economy is only possible if the productivity and consumer power of all Families are realized.

5. "Decent Work" strategies are the guarantee for a more balanced and Sustainable Development, poverty reduction, and better lives for Families, and should direct their efforts at:

a) Developing skills for sustainable livelihoods.

b) Investing in jobs and the community.

c) Promoting entrepreneurship.

d) Promoting fair trade.

e) Making money work for poverty reduction.

f) Building local development through cooperatives.

g) Overcoming discrimination.

h) Working to end child labor.

i) Ensuring incomes and basic social security.

j) Promoting the United Nations World Fund for Solidarity.

II. Family and Health in the context of Sustainable Development

6. The vision of a Primary Health Care must be guided by the principles of responsiveness to families' health needs, and place greater emphasis on health promotion and prevention as well as local systems.

7. Pregnancy and childbirth should be a reason for celebration. However, each year, more than half a million women die during pregnancy or childbirth; additionally, more than 10 million children die before their fifth birthday and almost 40% within the first month of life. The direct causes of maternal, newborn, and child deaths are largely preventable and treatable using proven, cost-effective, and currently available interventions.

8. HIV/AIDS has multidimensional impacts on families. Directly there are impacts of illness, death, and bereavement of family members (almost 20 million children in the world have lost both of their parents to HIV/AIDS). The costs associated with illness and death have placed massive burdens on families around the world and have driven many millions of families into poverty. The need to

provide care to family members with AIDS has also placed an additional burden on families that has fallen particularly heavily on women and girls.

9. Given the size and gravity of these problems and challenges, no individual country, agency, or organization can address these issues alone. The World Family Organization will set forth efforts to promote new events and actions as well as support the existing ones towards the achievements of the MDG 4, 5 and 6 in the context of Sustainable Development by:

a) Locating Primary Health Care in a broader agenda of Sustainable Development.

b) Mobilizing for action in favor of maternal, newborn, and child health care.

c) Mobilizing for action present and former First Ladies at National and Local level, international and national, multilateral and bilateral partners as well as international, national and local personalities in favor of maternal, newborn and child health care.

d) Supporting HIV/AIDS prevention and family-friendly programmes and taking into account the great diversity of family structures throughout the world and the specific and different needs of women, men, girls, and boys.

III. Family and Fair Education in the context of Sustainable Development

10. Education is a fundamental human right and is a key ingredient for Sustainable Development. It provides children, youth and adults with the power to reflect, make choices, and enjoy better lives. It breaks the cycle of poverty. Mothers' educations have strong impacts on health, fertility, and family welfare.

11. Education is a crucial basis for an active and fulfilling life. In all countries, lifelong education and training is also a prerequisite for citizenship, participation in economy, prosperity and consequently for Sustainable Development.

12. Education for All and a fairer education are achievable and affordable. The cost of providing the world's children with primary education requires less than 2 per cent of the annual estimated military costs worldwide. Baring this in mind, we recommend to all stakeholders working for Sustainable Development to act towards:

a) Driving all key actors in the education efforts.

b) Ensuring universal access to education.

c) Including education in national anti-poverty strategies.

d) Eliminating gender disparities in education.

e) Including persons with specific needs to full access to education.

IV. Family and Decent Housing and Living Environment

13. Housing and the surrounding environment are particularly important for the family. It is recognized that good housing can promote emotional and psychological security, good health, safety, and well-being.

14. A home is the most important asset most families will ever own. For poor families around the world, it is likely to be the only significant asset they will possess.

15. Housing in the context of Sustainable Development must be in environments where families are safe and healthy and reside in livable, equitable, sustainable and productive conditions. This would address the need for the protection of women, children, and older persons. Decent housing is an external good picture reflecting good policies of Sustainable Development.

16. Recognizing that a roof and an address are not enough we recommend that:

a) The "decent house" concept respects that basic human rights need facilities, which include infrastructure, services, amenities, security, trading, employment opportunities, social relations, and quality of the environment.

b) Discussions on "decent house" must be at the core of urban and rural poverty alleviation.

c) Discussions on regulating the urban and rural land market must lead to more land availability, particularly to the poor families favoring Sustainable Development.

d) The access to the many socially-oriented financing mechanisms and innovative proposals in many forms must bring together a variety of actors, including urban developers, regulated financial institutions, government agencies, credit cooperatives, and NGOs with an urban poverty focus on Sustainable Development.

V. Family, Domestic Violence, and Sustainable Development

17. Neglect, abuse, and violence against family members take many forms – physical, psychological, emotional, financial – and occur in every social, economic, ethnic, and geographic sphere.

18. Although men are sometimes subject to domestic violence, women and the girl child constitute the overwhelming majority of victims. Women living in poverty appear to be disproportionately affected.

19. There is strong evidence that domestic violence is caused and sustained by the political, social, economic, and structural inequalities between men and women in society, and the rigid gender roles and power relations between the sexes. Violence between partners in a marital or consensual union has to be considered as serious as violence between two strangers.

20. Domestic violence is a serious threat to Sustainable Development. It requires commitments from Governments, local authorities, and families themselves for its eradication. We recommend actions:

a) Involving all society to rethink the causes of domestic violence.

b) Protecting laws and actions on establishing legal and media frameworks to combat domestic violence.

c) Measuring the problem by encouraging and supporting the collection of data and research on domestic violence.

d) Implementing strategies for prevention in the family, schools and the community, including in-conflict and post-conflict situations, for better and lasting results.

e) Encouraging the development of frameworks for national family protection from violence that identifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and supports multidisciplinary teams.

VI. Family, Gender Equality and Poverty in the context of Sustainable Development

21. Two major areas – violence and poverty – continue to be major obstacles to gender equality worldwide. Globalization has added new dimensions to both areas by creating new challenges, such as trafficking of women and girls, changing the nature of armed conflict, increasing the gap between nations and genders, and detaching macroeconomic policy from social protection concerns.

22. Although the status of women has advanced in some important aspects in the past decade, the progress has been uneven and inequalities between women and men persist. Major obstacles still remain and have serious consequences for the well-being of Families.

23. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services, and to their minimal participation in the decision-making processes. All of these conditions jeopardize the role of the women and the gender equality on the process of Sustainable Development.

24. The equality of opportunities of the girl child and the empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, so they are active agents contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of the family, guarantee them the possibility to realize their full potential in the Family and society and shape their lives in accordance with their own aspirations, which is essential for the process of Sustainable Development; therefore, we recommend:

a) Reinforcing the Beijing Platform for Action.

b) Encouraging all actors of Sustainable Development to implement the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

c) Empowering women and men equally in all spheres of society.

d) Recognizing the need to fund the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in equal proportion to men.

e) Increasing political leverage of supporters of gender equality.

f) Encouraging gender balance in all themes of Sustainable Development, and reinforcing the role, position, participation and integration of women.

VII. Family and Local and Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

25. Encouraging global and local partnerships for Sustainable Development is imperative to improve the well-being of the families all over the world.

26. We recommend that:

a) The role of the United Nations in promoting effective local and global partnership for Sustainable Development be strengthened.

b) The identification and creation of mechanisms to disseminate Success Stories, good practices, and lessons learned on local and global partnerships on implementing the MDGs, towards the benefit of families be encouraged.

c) The enhancement of international solidarity at the global level in order to meet the needs of the local level for Sustainable Development be highly incentivized by all stakeholders of the process of Sustainable Development.

The Participants also decided to request to the World Family Organization to make the present Declaration known to all Governments and other Organizations affiliated, as well as to introduce it to the Annual Ministerial Review of the UN-ECOSOC 2008 as a Statement.